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**From:** Clancy, Maeve [Clancy.Maeve@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 11/2/2018 7:55:59 PM  
**To:** LEE, LILY [LEE.LILY@EPA.GOV]  
**CC:** Chesnutt, John [Chesnutt.John@epa.gov]; Lane, Jackie [Lane.Jackie@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Draft response ltr? FW: More information about followup on the 10/23 meeting

Hi Lily,

Here is what I have so far for a response to Ms. Parker Pennington. I added an intro, conclusion, and part of an answer to question #5. Do we need Brianna's review at all? Does Chris Hage want to review before we send out? CDPH's answers are still under review, but I hope to have something later today or on Monday. I have let them know that Angeles would like to respond ASAP.

Dear Ms. Parker Pennington,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with Chris Hage and me on October 23, 2018. We appreciated hearing your frank perspective as a homeowner at the SF Shipyard since June 2015. We share many of the concerns you raised. EPA is committed to ensuring the cleanup is complete and the community is involved throughout the process. As follow up from that meeting, and your subsequent email, our responses to your questions are below.

- 1) When will soil samples from private backyard areas be tested? CDPH**
- 2) When will samples of the residue on our windows and windowsills be tested for contamination? CDPH**
- 3) When will we be assured that the soil underneath our homes is safe and not containing toxins about an acceptable level? That includes the soil immediately surrounding our homes and under garages that are several feet below street level? CDPH**
- 4) What is the background level that is being used as the baseline to determine acceptable levels of toxicity, both the one used in previous testing by Tetra Tech, and the background now being used for retesting of Parcel A? Parcel A—CDPH  
Parcel G—EPA (Lily)**
- 5) What is the cleanup plan if unacceptable radiation or other toxic substances are found at unacceptable levels? And further, how do we ensure the health safety of those currently living and working at the Shipyard through a cleanup process? EPA (Lily)**

If unacceptable levels of radiation or other toxic substances are found, EPA will work with DTSC and the Navy to determine next steps under CERCLA. EPA and our regulatory partners are taking a number of steps to ensure the health and safety of both the current conditions at Parcel A and the health and safety of all nearby residents, including Parcel A residents, into the future as work on the site continues.

For the current conditions at Parcel A, CDPH has completed 97% of their scan of Parcel A-1 and the only anomaly they found that was not naturally occurring was the deck marker. EPA has carefully studied the potential health effects of the deck marker and we do not believe that it would have posed a health risk if it had been left in place. Radiation readings during and after removal indicated no residual contamination in the soil. In addition, as described above, at the request of residents, CDPH will soon begin sampling windowsill dust in SF Shipyard homes. CDPH has also begun scanning Parcel A-2, located adjacent to the SF Shipyard development, and slated for development in the future. EPA, CDPH, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and the Navy will evaluate results from the Parcel A-1, A-2, and dust scans, make decisions on how to proceed, and discuss any follow-on scanning or testing efforts with the City and Parcel A residents.

In order to protect Parcel A residents and the surrounding community during work on other parcels at the HNPS site, EPA as part of the cleanup team with DTSC and the Navy, has been actively involved in the development of the new work plans designed to address the uncertainty that now surrounds the site and to reassure the residents of their safety. We have stepped up our oversight activities, and we plan to have staff on site during the planned retesting. We will also independently take and analyze samples alongside the Navy to ensure the integrity of the data and restore public confidence in the clean-up.

EPA remains committed to protecting Parcel A residents and the larger Bayview-Hunters Point community from exposure to radiation. We continue to direct resources to Hunters Point so our team of technical experts can focus on this community. We are committed to working hard, together with the Navy, our State regulatory partners, to ensure that Hunters Point Naval Shipyard is cleaned and safe for the community. Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions or concerns.

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**From:** LEE, LILY

**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2018 8:53 AM

**To:** Clancy, Maeve <Clancy.Maeve@epa.gov>

**Cc:** Chesnutt, John <Chesnutt.John@epa.gov>; Lane, Jackie <Lane.Jackie@epa.gov>

**Subject:** Draft response ltr? FW: More information about followup on the 10/23 meeting

Dear Maeve,

Since most of these relate to Parcel A, could you draft overall and work w/CDPH re responses? Maybe you can call Dale Schornack and ask him who the best person is to coordinate with. If Gonzalo is back from vacation, then probably him? I can help w/the non-Parcel A portions of Questions 4 & 5. Angeles committed to respond within 2 wks. So it would be good to get a draft to circulate for review maybe by Wed/Thurs. I think it can probably come by email from Angeles by 11/6, but maybe check with John/Angeles to see if that's what they want. Angeles is flying to Chicago 11/6. I'll be with her so I can help there if necessary.

For examples of past language, you can use the attached letters and any materials from the binders. I should give you mine. If I were sitting at my desk, it would be on the shelf to the left of my head. Feel free to take it any time.

Also, the attached version of the 10/15 presentation to Supervisors Hrg does not include edits Enrique did on the fly. I gave the hard copy markup to Frances to incorporate into the Word Doc version, so you can get from her if you need urgently.

Thank you!

-Lily

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**From:** LEE, LILY

**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2018 5:01 PM

**To:** 'Pena, lowayna (BOS)' <[iowayna.pena@sfgov.org](mailto:iowayna.pena@sfgov.org)>

**Cc:** Lane, Jackie <[Lane.Jackie@epa.gov](mailto:Lane.Jackie@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** More information about followup on the 10/23 meeting

Dear lowayna,

Thank you for asking about the October 23 meeting. I wanted to add to what Jackie already told you. Linda Parker Pennington said that she would be coming late due to a conflict. She met with the EPA Superfund Assistant Director and with the Regional Administrator's Senior Advisor. Ms. Pennington raised multiple concerns and followed up with

the attached email. We will respond to her questions, in coordination with CDPH, the lead on the Parcel A scanning and dust testing.

Please let us know anything else you may need.

Lily

Begin forwarded message:

On Oct 24, 2018, at 9:31 AM, Linda Parker Pennington <[llparker1@gmail.com](mailto:llparker1@gmail.com)> wrote:

Ms. Angeles Herrera  
Assistant Director, Superfund Division, US EPA Region 9

Mr. Christopher L. Hage  
Sr. Advisor to the Regional Administrator Region 9

copy to Tomas Aragon, Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco

Good morning Ms. Herrera and Mr. Hage,  
I wanted to thank you for the generosity of your time yesterday at the San Francisco EPA offices, and for listening to my frank perspective as a homeowner at the SF Shipyard since June 2015. I thought I'd forward to you this latest news article that includes Dan Hirsch's report on the Shipyard cleanup, and well summarizes what leads to the state of high concern that we have as homeowners and residents in the Bayview.

And to document briefly what agreements were made yesterday on our next steps, I am expecting answers to the following questions, asked several times of the Navy and CDPH representatives who've met with homeowners at the Shipyard, and residents at the CAC meeting over the last few months. These questions are all relative to Parcel A, where we currently live, and where the deck marker was discovered 3 weeks ago.

- 1) When will soil samples from private backyard areas be tested?
- 2) When will samples of the residue on our windows and windowsills be tested for contamination?
- 3) When will we be assured that the soil underneath our homes is safe and not containing toxins about an acceptable level? That includes the soil immediately surrounding our homes and under garages that are several feet below street level?
- 4) What is the background level that is being used as the baseline to determine acceptable levels of toxicity, both the one used in previous testing by Tetra Tech, and the background now being used for retesting of Parcel A?
- 5) What is the cleanup plan if unacceptable radiation or other toxic substances are found at unacceptable levels? And further, how do we ensure the health safety of those currently living and working at the Shipyard through a cleanup process?

I am anticipating having these questions answered in writing within the next few weeks. I would also like to ask that these questions be addressed publicly with **all Shipyard homeowners and Bayview residents at your earliest opportunity.**

Finally, I think it is worth noting that a sense of urgency about this situation does not seem to be in evidence with any of the public agencies we've been meeting with (the Navy, the CDPH, the EPA or even the appointed Citizens Advisory Committee's Environmental and Land Reuse Subcommittee). The level of frustration and lack of trust felt by Shipyard and Bayview residents cannot be overestimated. It behooves you as

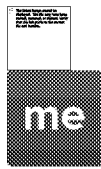
representatives of the EPA to ensure that all agencies involved in creating this very real health risk and public relations disaster show both transparency and urgency in addressing our questions and concerns. This is essential to restoring public trust.

Again, thank you for your time. I have copied Fred Jordan of the San Francisco African American Chamber of Commerce, whom you met with prior to our meeting. Fred and I will be staying in touch on these matters.

I look forward to your response, both to these immediate questions, and to the larger issue of communicating with full transparency to all Shipyard and Bayview residents so that we can feel safer in our homes.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Parker Pennington*  
*SF Shipyard Homeowner*



**Linda Parker  
Pennington**



about.me/lindaparkerpennington

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lee Houskeeper** <[newsservice@aol.com](mailto:newsservice@aol.com)>

Date: Wed, Oct 24, 2018 at 8:31 AM

Subject: San Francisco Bay View » New reports show the entire Hunters Point Shipyard, one of the most toxic sites in the US, is likely to be radioactively contaminated

To:

<http://sfbayview.com/2018/10/new-reports-show-the-entire-hunters-point-shipyard-one-of-the-most-toxic-sites-in-the-us-is-likely-to-be-radioactively-contaminated/>

## **New reports show the entire Hunters Point Shipyard, one of the most toxic sites in the US, is likely to be radioactively contaminated**

October 23, 2018

**by Lee Houskeeper**



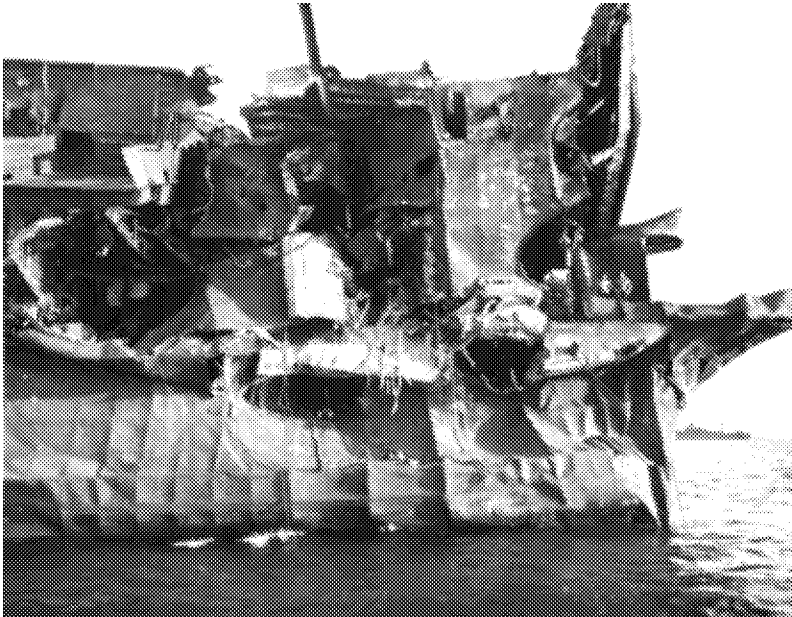
This is the source of the massive radioactive contamination at the Hunters Point Shipyard. One of a series of nuclear bomb tests on atolls in the South Pacific called Operation Crossroads, this blast is known as Shot Baker. Seventy-nine ships deployed around this blast and others, from the Navy's "mothball" fleet, were towed to the shipyard to be "cleaned." Instead, the Navy's futile attempts to clean them contaminated the entire shipyard. – Photo: Army Photographic Signal Corps

Daniel Hirsch, president of the nonprofit Committee to Bridge the Gap and former director of the Program on Environmental and Nuclear Policy at the University of California Santa Cruz, spoke with the press in advance of a community presentation at Hunters Point Shipyard. Many Shipyard residents have been frustrated with what they feel are less than forthcoming answers from the Navy and regulatory agencies regarding the radioactive contamination at the Shipyard. Hirsch presented independent research and information on Hunters Point, including two new reports he and his colleagues at Committee to Bridge the Gap are releasing.

### **First report: Radioactive work at Hunters Point**

**Key conclusions:** The extent of radioactive activities at Hunters Point was far greater than the public has been led to believe. A wide array of radionuclides, numbering in the dozens, was involved, often in extremely large quantities.

No portion of Hunters Point can be deemed non-impacted, since the radioactivity was susceptible to widespread migration throughout the site. Effective cleanup will be a massive undertaking, requiring a level of diligence far greater than that which has been demonstrated by the Navy to date, whose poor environmental and safety practices led to the widespread contamination in the first place.



This is the USS Independence, a huge aircraft carrier, after being exposed to an atomic bomb test. Note the two sailors at the far right. Not only is the ship badly damaged, but it's highly radioactive. – Photo: NARA

### **Second report: The majority of Hunters Point sites were never sampled for radioactive contamination**

The public would reasonably think that sampling of soil and other materials for radioactive contamination had been performed across the whole Hunters Point Shipyard (HPS) site, and with numbers of samples and techniques sufficient to have high confidence that potential contamination was not overlooked.

In fact, the Navy decided to exempt approximately 90 percent of the locations (792 of 883 HPS sites) at Hunters Point from any soil sampling or building measurements.

### **No sampling conducted for the great majority of radionuclides**

In addition to not sampling the great majority of HPS at all, what sampling was done did not include measurements for the great majority of radionuclides of concern. No cleanup levels were established for them, thus allowing unlimited levels of contamination if present.



Even in the 1940s, the Navy knew the danger of a radioactive ship. This is the USS Independence anchored at the Hunters Point Shipyard, where attempts were made to decontaminate the irradiated ships. – Photo: NARA

Furthermore, most soil measurements did not even include the most critical radionuclides like strontium-90 and plutonium-239.

In the 2004 Historical Radiological Assessment (HRA) the Navy identified 108 radionuclides used at HPS. The HRA then reduced the list of 108 radionuclides used at HPS to 33 radionuclides of concern.

Despite over a hundred radionuclides identified as having been used at HPS and 33 deemed in the HRA to be “radionuclides of concern,” during actual sampling and cleanup, however, only a few radionuclides were considered. For example, the Navy now claims that there are only three or four radionuclides of concern in Parcel G and sets cleanup standards only for those.

### **Background measurements taken from potentially contaminated areas**

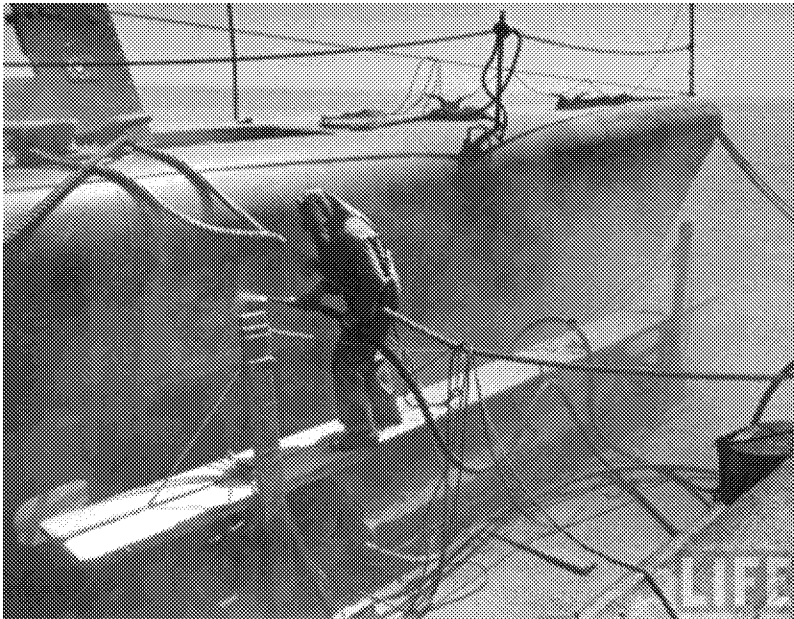


Crude efforts to decontaminate the radioactive fleet at sea proved futile. These sailors can never make this battleship, the USS Prinz Eugene, captured from the Germans, clean and safe. It was so radioactive it was later sunk. – Photo: NARA

To know if measurements taken at Hunters Point represent contamination, it must first be known how much radioactivity there is in local “background” – the level of naturally occurring radionuclides and global fallout, i.e., how much radioactivity there would be if the Navy had never been there. The Multi-Agency Radiological Survey and Site Investigation Manual (MARSSIM), which contractors employed by the Navy are supposed to follow, defines a non-impacted area as “an area where there is no reasonable possibility (extremely low probability) of residual contamination.”

These areas determined to be non-impacted, if truly free from any contamination, can reasonably be used for background reference areas. What has been and continues to be done at HPS, however, is to use locations in the midst of the contaminated Superfund site for background, areas that have a significant likelihood of being radiologically contaminated themselves, but were inappropriately labeled as “non-impacted.”





Sandblasting became the favored method of reducing the contamination of the ships – while spreading its radioactivity around the shipyard. The shiny irradiated sand – called “black beauty sand” by the children of Hunters Point, who liked to play in it – was used to pave walkways and sideroads around the shipyard. – Photo: Fritz Goro, Life Magazine  
 Having not sampled the great majority of Hunters Point sites and for the great majority of the radionuclides of concern, and inflating background values, Tetra Tech nonetheless appears to have fabricated or falsified readings from 90-97 percent of the HPS survey units that were measured according to the EPA.

In summary, the great majority of Hunters Point soil was never sampled and what samples were taken ignored the great majority of the radionuclides of concern, with unlimited contamination levels allowed without requiring cleanup. Only a tiny fraction of HPS and the radionuclides of concern were subject to sampling, and only a tiny fraction of those samples are free of evidence of fabrication.

Essentially, none of the entire HPS radiological cleanup endeavor to date can be relied upon to assure protection of the public.

*Contact Lee Houskeeper of San Francisco Stories at [Newsservice@aol.com](mailto:Newsservice@aol.com).*

Read the entire reports and a presentation that amply demonstrates the history and the present state of radioactivity at the Hunters Point Shipyard:

- Report 1: Hunters Point Naval Shipyard: The Nuclear Arms Race Comes Home– Oct. 18, 2018
- Report 2: The Great Majority of Hunters Point Sites Were Never Sampled for Radioactive Contamination — And the Testing That Was Performed Was Deeply Flawed– Oct. 18, 2018
- Hunters Point Community Presentation 10-18-18 This presentation – extremely clear, well illustrated and easy to understand – should be seen by everyone with an interest in or contact with the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard.

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